

Grand Manan Coastal Trail Hike (Red Trail)

David Suttie, July 2019

- *This trail is a real test of endurance and should not be taken lightly.
- *It's in the same league as the Fundy Footpath, but with less long hills and more bogs and high cliffs.
- *Make ferry + shuttle reservations well in advance.
- *Much of the trail is on private land, so be respectful.
- *Keep away from cliff edges...they may be crumbly or undercut.
- *Filter + treat all water...don't risk sickness in the woods. (carry 2 liters of water)
- *Bring a gps with the important locations saved.

Distance: 41 km

Difficulty: Challenging (average 1.5 km/hr with a 35 pound pack)

Trail markings: Red blazes (mostly can covers) or orange/red tape.

*Side trails are blazed blue or yellow.

Water: Day 1 water sources are from brooks, so are discolored.

Day 2 - 4 water sources are clear cold springs...but there are also brooks if needed.

(SHUTTLE INFO)

We got in touch with a man willing to shuttle us from the ferry terminal to the southern end of the island. Please contact the GMVIC for more info:

Grand Manan Visitor Information Center

13 route 776 (opens June 17 2019)

506-321-9016

Day 1: If the Red Trail is wet, stay on the atv trail from SW Head to Bradford Cove Pond.

Drive to Black's Harbour and leave vehicle at the ferry landing, and walk onto the ferry.

Take 9.30 ferry to Grand Manan Island...arrive about 11 am.

*have breakfast on the boat.

*meet shuttle and drive to the southern end of the island.

Pat's Head (km 0) – Big Head (km 10.3)

Start: Pat's Head: 44° 36.190'N 66° 52.837'W

Water: 1. Spring Rocks: 44° 36.987'N 66° 54.433'W

2. Merry Brook: about 44° 37.653'N 66° 53.589'W

*peaty water, but ok if filtered.

Lunch: Hay Point lookout + bench: 44° 37.181'N 66° 54.297'W

Camp: Big Head lookout + bench: 44° 39.391'N 66° 53.325'W *Exposed headland.

Day Total: 10.3 km

Day 2: Today's hike involves lengthy sections of wet atv trails through bogs, so stop and wring out your socks once in a while.

Big Head (km 10.3) – Western Head Lookout (km 21.8)

Water: 1. Small stream of good water: 44° 41.190'N 66° 52.039'W

*about 4 km after Big Head.

2. Small Brook of good water: 44° 44.008'N 66° 50.912'W

*1.2 km before Western Head.

Lunch: Lookout at end of Dwelly's Rd: 44° 41.815'N 66° 51.969'W

Camp: Western Head Lookout + table: 44° 44.490'N 66° 50.535'W *Partly sheltered campsite.

Day Total: 11.5 km

Day3: My favorite section of trail.

You have to wade across Dark Harbour Brook.

Whistle Lookout has space for 2 tents, but there is more space in the woods.

Western Head (km 21.8) – Whistle Lookout (km 31)

Water: 1. Dark Harbour Brook crossing with nice spring on south bank: 44° 44.394'N 66° 49.871'W

*get water here in morning before wading the brook.

2. Small brook with good water: 44° 47.132'N 66° 48.378'W

*get water here about 1 km before Whistle Lookout.

Lunch: Large campsite with intersecting atv trails: 44° 46.147'N 66° 48.873'W

Camp: Whistle Lookout + bench: 44° 47.444'N 66° 47.761'W *Exposed campsite with room for 2 tents.

Day Total: 9.2 km

Day 4: Rock hop or wade across Eel Brook near the falls.

Whale Cove Beach is easier walking on the small rocks closer to the water.

From Swallowtail Light, walk the 1 km road back to ferry terminal.

Whistle Lookout (km 31) – Swallowtail Light (km 40) – ferry (km 41)

Water: 1. Spring: 44° 47.815'N 66° 46.365'W

*about 2.6 km past the Whistle lookout.

2. Water from pipe on the grass near Whale Cove wharf: 44° 46.411'N 66° 45.677'W

Lunch: On grass near Whale Cove wharf: 44° 46.405'N 66° 45.666'W

End: North Head Ferry Terminal: 44° 45.802'N 66° 44.733'W

Day Total: 10 km

Be back at the ferry landing by 1645 to catch the 1730 ferry.

***if back by 1445, ask if space is available on the 1530 ferry.**

***have supper on the boat.**

SOME GPS LOCATIONS ALONG THE GRAND MANAN RED TRAIL

***Locations vary due to GPS accuracy, but these numbers will get you close.**

[DAY 1]

1. Pat's Head: 44° 36.190'N 66° 52.837'W ***start of trail**
 2. Upper Flock of Sheep: 44° 36.010'N 66° 53.004'W
 3. Lower Flock of Sheep: 44° 35.918'N 66° 53.322'W
 4. SW Head Lighthouse: 44° 36.053'N 66° 54.331'W
 5. **Spring Rocks** waterfall: 44° 36.987'N 66° 54.433'W **[Water]**
 6. **Hay Point Lookout**: 44° 37.181'N 66° 54.297'W **[Lunch]**
 7. Hay Point: 44° 37.303'N 66° 54.298'W ***via a very steep side trail.**
 8. Hay Point (Upper + Lower trails) intersection: 44° 37.195'N 66° 54.251'W
***when upper trail joins blue trail, follow blue trail west to Red Trail.**
 9. Deep Cove Blue trail intersection: 44° 37.522'N 66° 53.932'W
 10. Western Brook crossing: 44° 37.608'N 66° 53.765'W
 11. **Merry Brook** crossing: 44° 37.653'N 66° 53.589'W **[Water]**
 12. Buoy Cabin: 44° 37.923'N 66° 53.400'W
 13. Octopus Tree: 44° 39.040'N 66° 53.153'W
 14. **Big Head** campsite + bench: 44° 39.391'N 66° 53.325'W **[Campsite]**
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[DAY 2]

15. Abandoned camp?: 44° 39.976'N 66° 53.084'W
16. Bog Water Brook: 44° 40.238'N 66° 52.825'W
17. King Street Blue trail intersection: 44° 40.721'N 66° 52.520'W
18. Sloop Brook crossing: 44° 40.956'N 66° 52.429'W
19. **Small stream of good water**: 44° 41.190'N 66° 52.039'W **[Water]**
20. Seal Cove Yellow trail intersection: 44° 41.203'N 66° 51.926'W
21. Dwellys Pond Brook crossing: 44° 41.346'N 66° 51.920'W
22. Small stream: 44° 41.716'N 66° 51.971'W
23. **Open area and lookout at end of Dwelly's Rd**: 44° 41.815'N 66° 51.969'W **[Lunch]**
24. The main Dwellys campsite: 44° 41.870'N 66° 51.947'W
25. Small brook with good water: 44° 42.091'N 66° 51.934'W
26. Brook crossing with ok water: 44° 42.455'N 66° 51.447'W
27. Small spring flowing onto road: 44° 42.490'N 66° 51.444'W
28. ATV trail intersection: 44° 42.577'N 66° 51.472'W
29. Little Dark Harbour Brook crossing: 44° 42.664'N 66° 51.505'W
30. ATV trail crossing: 44° 42.690'N 66° 51.519'W
31. Little Dark Harbour lookout + bench: 44° 42.632'N 66° 51.788'W
32. Little Dark Harbour cottage...separate deck: 44° 42.660'N 66° 51.812'W
33. Brook: 44° 43.349'N 66° 51.551'W
34. **Small brook with good water**: 44° 44.008'N 66° 50.912'W **[Water]**
35. Brook crossing: 44° 44.013'N 66° 50.869'W

36. Herring Cove Brook crossing + H.C. trail intersection: 44° 44.045'N 66° 50.795'W
37. **Western Head** campsite with table: 44° 44.490'N 66° 50.535'W **[Campsite]**
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[DAY 3]

38. **Dark Harbour Brook crossing + nice spring**: 44° 44.394'N 66° 49.871'W **[Water]**
*spring is on the south side of brook at the crossing.
39. Small brook...good water: 44° 45.056'N 66° 50.096'W
40. Small brook with good water: 44° 45.414'N 66° 50.061'W
41. Small brook, good water: 44° 46.072'N 66° 49.655'W
42. Brook crossing: 44° 46.098'N 66° 49.647'W
43. Lookout : 44° 46.226'N 66° 49.616'W
44. Money Cove Brook + Falls: 44° 46.153'N 66° 48.896'W
45. **Large campsite + intersecting atv trails**: 44° 46.147'N 66° 48.873'W **[Lunch]**
46. Bridge crossing Money Cove Brook: 44° 46.200'N 66° 48.868'W
47. Yellow trail intersection: North Head via Quigley Hill: 44° 46.227'N 66° 48.847'W
48. Lookout with bench: 44° 46.402'N 66° 49.176'W
49. Twin Brooks Crossings: 44° 46.817'N 66° 48.853'W
50. Lookout + bench above Twin Brooks: 44° 46.843'N 66° 48.863'W
51. Indian Beach Lookout: 44° 47.008'N 66° 48.700'W
52. Split Tree: 44° 47.065'N 66° 48.532'W
53. Brook crossing with small stream of good water in from the east: 44° 47.054'N 66° 48.447'W
54. Indian Beach Blue trail intersection: 44° 47.094'N 66° 48.419'W
55. **Small brook with good water**: 44° 47.132'N 66° 48.378'W **[Water]**
56. **Whistle Lookout** + bench: 44° 47.444'N 66° 47.761'W **[Campsite]**
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[DAY 4]

57. **Spring**: 44° 47.815'N 66° 46.365'W **[Water]**
58. Whistle Road Blue trail intersection: 44° 47.542'N 66° 46.646'W
59. Waterfall: 44° 46.943'N 66° 45.921'W
60. Small brook...good water: 44° 46.872'N 66° 45.926'W
61. Waterfall + bridge: 44° 46.785'N 66° 45.883'W
62. Whale Cove Lookout: 44° 46.504'N 66° 45.672'W
63. **Whale Cove wharf area** + **water pipe**: 44° 46.405'N 66° 45.666'W **[Lunch] [Water]**
64. Hole in the Wall: 44° 46.680'N 66° 44.914'W
65. Fish Head: 44° 46.766'N 66° 44.706'W
66. Swallowtail Lighthouse Gift Shop: 44° 45.912'N 66° 44.203'W
67. North Head Ferry Terminal: 44° 45.802'N 66° 44.733'W

GRAND MANAN FERRY INFO (summer of 2019)

***the food on the boats is basic but good.**

Reservations: Toll Free in NB (855) 882-1978

or create an account and reserve on line at: <https://register.coastaltransport.ca/>

***a few sailings are reserved for dangerous goods, so check ahead.**

Reservations are valid only up to 45 minutes before the scheduled departure.

Passengers must check in prior to this time.

If you have not checked in 45 minutes before sailing you may lose your reserved spot.

Please contact our ticket office at (506) 662-3724 if you cannot make your scheduled sailing.

Rates: No charge from Blacks Harbour...pay when departing Grand Manan Island.

Age: >12: \$12 5 - 12: \$5.95 <5: Free

Schedule:

Daily from Blacks Harbour: 09:30, 13:30, 17:30, 21:00

Additional Summer Crossings (June 17 to September 14): 07:30, 11:30, 15:30

NOTE: On Sundays there is no 07:30 sailing from Blacks Harbour.

Daily from North Head: 07:30, 11:30, 15:30, 19:15

Additional Summer Crossings (June 17 to September 14): 09:30, 13:30, 17:30

NOTE: On Sundays there is no 09:30 sailing from Grand Manan.

Walking on/off of the ferry.

Foot traffic moves on/off the ferry before vehicles.

(ON)

Wait in the main terminal until you see the ferry approaching,

then make your way down to what looks like a bus stop near the top of the ramp.

Wait there until directed to walk onto the boat.

*if planning to eat on board, get in line at the cafeteria towards

the front of the 3rd level deck.

(OFF)

Grand Manan (Left hand side)

Blacks Harbour (Right hand side)

Go to the bottom deck and wait towards the front of the cars on the proper side,

until told to exit the ferry.

